

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

July 2023

Our Mission Statement

The Oregon Paleo Lands Center (OPLI) works with the Gateway Communities of the mid-John Day Basin (Condon, Antelope, Fossil, Service Creek, Spray, Mitchell, Kimberly, Dayville and Monument) to build social and economic vitality through efforts:

To conserve, interpret, and promote the natural and cultural history of the John Day Basin/Blue Mountains through time.

To develop and connect, with partners, the John Day Basin/Blue Mountains' visitor services, recreational services, natural and cultural history education opportunities.

To welcome, educate, and connect visitors, schools, area residents and businesses at the Oregon Paleo Lands Center (OPLC), and through other media.

Contact OPLI at:
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Fossil, Oregon 97830

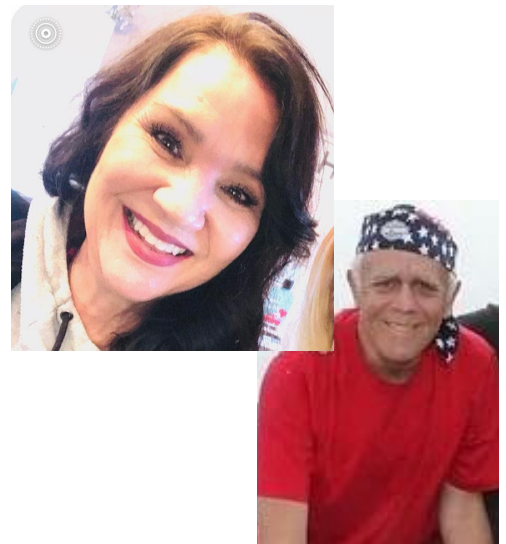
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Presidents Message

**FUTURE LOOKS PROMISING AS OPLI
CONTINUES TO GAIN NEW PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS**

The Volunteer OPLI Board continues work to sustain our small organization in Fossil, Oregon to meet the needs of visitors to the John Day Basin.

We are pleased to announce we have added a local resident interested in helping the Visitor's Center grow their operations. Carol MacInnes, the former Mayor of Fossil, joined our Board this year and agreed to take on the Treasurer's responsibilities. We have been very fortunate to have Richard Ross, who has a ranch near Service Creek, ably manage our finances for the past 10 years. If not for Richard's dedication and incredible support of the Oregon Paleo Lands Center, we doubt the OPLI Visitor's Center would still be operating. Richard has announced that he will be shortly leaving the Board as he explores his retirement.



We had a great showing of partners for our April 8th Stakeholders' Event and barbecue at the Visitor Center. The community event was planned to share recent developments with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) and the Fossil School District.



Invited partners showed up and gave updates on our affiliated local activities including the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District, Mid John Day Watershed Council, John Day Fossil Beds, Thomas Condon Center, Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce, Bureau of Land Management and DOGAMI. The event was covered by the local Times Journal newspaper with a comprehensive article and photos of the event and KFSL 99.5 who publicized the event prior.

We have a new memorandum of understanding with the Fossil School District, and we are getting some much-needed support from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. DOGAMI developed a community survey to ask the local public about their interest in OPLI and fossil collecting in the region. They received 82 responses to an online survey and plan to have a draft report available at the end of June to present to the OPLI Board.

DOGAMI has shared an interest in creating a citizen science program that could better manage fossils found at the High School Collection area. Fossils have been collected from the site for decades and little data has been shared. We did hear some of them ended up in a classroom in Japan!



We are pleased to share we will be open again this year four days a week during the summer. Our past Camp Hosts Chris and Marcia Bordagaray have returned and will be helping visitors find the fossil collection area and provide regional services information. OPLI pays for parking at the Wheeler County RV Park for volunteer hosts along with other costs and appreciate the value for our local residents as well as the visitors.

The Center hosted the first of our school groups on May 30th. This group of 72 fifth and sixth graders toured our site, then the Fossil Museum before eating lunch and heading to the Wheeler High School's Fossil Dig.

Our volunteer working Board is still challenged by the regular need for fundraising. In addition to managing operations and visitor services, the working OPLI Board tries to squeeze in time to secure grants to support the general annual operations. In 2022, It cost \$2,000.00 per month to keep the Center available to visitors. We continue to rely heavily on support from individual donors. Last year we were fortunate and thankful that over 80 percent of all our income came from individual donations like you and a couple of donors directed funds of the Oregon Community Foundation. Please consider making another donation to keep us operating as we continue to seek a partner with deep pockets to infuse additional support into this valuable regional and local resource.

We continue to recruit for more local and regional leadership to join the Board. Let us know if you'd like to join us get to the next level of service for the community and visitors (BLM reported to us they had over 50,000 applications to float the river in 2021!).

We have some really promising developments with new partners, we just need the resources to meet the needed demand to define and implement these new developments.

Thank you, Jeffrey kee,

Board President, OPLI
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www.oregonpaleolandscenter.com

2023 Donors, Sponsors, and Grantors

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The Fossil Cartel

THANK YOU!

Oregon Paleo Lands Center Needs You!

You can support the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in a variety of ways. Your financial support now in 2023 is vital to continue our mission of exploring, teaching about, and protecting Oregon's paleo lands. Donor benefits include a 10% discount on retail merchandise at the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in Fossil, a regular newsletter with information about scientific discoveries, history, and news of the Paleo Lands, and advance notice of upcoming OPLI and partner organization events. All donations are tax deductible.

Interested in volunteering at the Center or serving on the Board?
Contact us at paleolands@gmail.com or www.paleolands.org or at PO
Box 104, Fossil, Oregon 97830 (541) 763-4480.